Markleeville Creek Floodplain Restoration Project, Alpine County Addendum to the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration

State Clearinghouse No. 2015032034

LEAD AGENCY



Alpine County 50 Diamond Valley Road Markleeville, California 96120 (530) 694-2140 www.alpinecountyca.gov

PREPARED BY



Stantec Consulting Services Inc. 295 Highway 50, Suite 1 Zephyr Cove, Nevada 89449-7702 www.stantec.com

for the Alpine Watershed Group:



Alpine Watershed Group PO Box 296 Markleeville, California 96120 (530) 694-2327 Contact: Kimra McAfee

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# Acronyms and Abbreviations

2015 Project	Markleeville Creek Floodplain Restoration Project
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
AWG	Alpine Watershed Group
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation
Caltrans bridge replacement project	Markleeville Creek Bridge Replacement Project
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
EIR	environmental impact report
Forest Service	US Forest Service
IRWMP	Tahoe-Sierra Integrated Regional Water Management Plan
IS	initial study
MND	mitigated negative declaration
MPUD	Markleeville Public Utility District
NOD	notice of determination
Project	current Markleeville Creek Floodplain Restoration Project
restoration project	current Markleeville Creek Floodplain Restoration Project
ROW	right-of-way
sewer improvement project	Markleeville Sewer Pump Station Relocation and Improvements Project

# 1 Introduction

This environmental document is a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) addendum to the Markleeville Creek Floodplain Restoration Project (2015 Project) Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND). Since adoption of the IS/MND by Alpine County in 2015, there have been two updates to the 2015 Project necessitating revisions to the 95% design plan set: (1) separation of the Markleeville Public Utility District (MPUD) Sewer Pump Station Relocation and Improvements Project (sewer improvement project) into a separate and distinct project, and (2) removal of the remaining old bridge abutments and adjacent floodwall section left in Markleeville Creek following construction of the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Markleeville Creek Bridge Replacement Project (Caltrans bridge replacement project). The current and revised project is referred to herein as the Project or restoration project. The restoration project maintains the same geographic area, goals, and objectives as the 2015 Project. This environmental document evaluates the modifications to the 2015 Project and presents the information needed to satisfy the guidelines for a CEQA addendum to the IS/MND for the 2015 Project.

The analysis in Section 5 supports the conclusion that the environmental impacts identified in the IS/MND evaluating the 2015 Project remain substantially unchanged since the analysis was completed; therefore, no new environmental review or preparation of a subsequent MND is required.

### 1.1 CEQA Addendum

Under CEQA, an addendum to a certified environmental impact report (EIR) or negative declaration is appropriate if some changes or additions are necessary, but none of the conditions described in CEQA Guidelines §15162 calling for preparation of a subsequent negative declaration have occurred. These conditions are described in detail in Section 1.2 below and are, in summary:

- Whether the changes or additions result in any new significant impacts or substantially increase the severity of previously identified significant impacts, and
- Whether substantial changes have occurred with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken, such as a substantial change in the affected environment.

CEQA allows lead agencies to restrict review of modifications to a previously approved project to the incremental effects associated with the proposed modifications, compared against the anticipated effects of the previously approved project at build-out. An addendum does not need to be circulated for public review but must be considered by the decision-making body (in this case the county board of supervisors) along with the previously adopted environmental document prior to making a decision on the project (CEQA Guidelines §15164 [d]). Pending the county board of supervisors' approval, a new Notice of Determination (NOD) will need to be filed at the State Clearinghouse and county clerk's office not more than 5 days following the approval.

### 1.2 State CEQA Guidelines Regarding an Addendum

Public Resources Code Section 21166 and Sections 15162 through 15163 of the CEQA Guidelines describe the conditions under which subsequent documents would be prepared. In summary, when an EIR has been certified or a MND adopted for a project, no subsequent document shall be prepared for that project unless the lead agency determines, on the basis of substantial evidence in light of the whole record, one or more of the following:

- Substantial changes are proposed in the project that will require major revisions of the previous EIR or MND due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects;
- Substantial changes have occurred with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken that will require major revisions of the previous EIR or MND due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects; or
- New information of substantial importance, which was not known and could not have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the previous EIR or MND was certified as complete or was adopted, shows any of the following:
  - The project will have one or more significant effects not discussed in the previous EIR or MND;
  - Significant effects previously examined will be substantially more severe than shown in the previous EIR or MND;
  - Mitigation measures or alternatives previously found not to be feasible would in fact be feasible and would substantially reduce one or more significant effects of the project, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative; or
  - Mitigation measures or alternatives that are considerably different from those analyzed in the previous EIR or MND would substantially reduce one or more significant effects on the environment, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative.

# 2 Project Location

The Project is located in Alpine County, California, in the town of Markleeville on the north side of Highway 89, in the US Geological Survey Markleeville quadrangle map, NE ¼ of the SE ¼ of Section 21, Township 10 North, Range 20 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian. The approximate Project center is located at coordinates 38.694051, -119.77853. Within Markleeville, the Project is located immediately east and downhill from the Alpine County Administration Center. Land uses to the north and west are urban (commercial and public), while those to the south and west are residential. Land uses to the east are a mix of rural agricultural, public institutional (including the Project site), and open space/recreation.

The Project boundary includes an approximately 6.65-acre area (or Project site) that formerly housed the US Forest Service (Forest Service) Markleeville Guard Station. The site includes Markleeville Creek and immediate adjacent areas downstream of the Markleeville Creek Bridge on Highway 89 and Millberry Creek downstream of the MPUD access road to its confluence with Markleeville Creek. The parcels within the Project boundary are primarily owned by Alpine County (Assessor Parcel Numbers 002-280-002-0, 002-280-003-0, 002-280-005-0, and 002-280-006-0) and include a portion of a private parcel along the MPUD access road (Assessor Parcel Number 002-260-002-0). The MPUD holds access easements along all pipelines and a blanket access easement that includes the access road. A portion of the site lies within the Caltrans right-of-way (ROW) along Highway 89.

Figure 1 indicates the Project vicinity and location. Figure 2 illustrates the Project site boundary and existing site features.

# 3 Background

### 3.1 Project History

Alpine Watershed Group (AWG) with support from and coordination with MPUD and Alpine County developed design plans to the 95% level for the 2015 Project. The 2015 Project was and is a priority floodplain restoration project for the Upper Carson River Watershed. The goal of the 2015 Project was to restore the natural form and function of Markleeville Creek at the site of the former Forest Service Markleeville Guard Station. The 2015 Project had three major elements: sewer system modifications, floodplain restoration, and public access improvements. Since 2015, it has been split into two separate and distinct projects, with separate funding sources:

- The sewer improvement project, led by MPUD and to be funded by Clean Water State Revolving Fund financing; and
- Markleeville Creek Floodplain Restoration Project (Project or restoration project), which includes floodplain restoration and some public access facilities improvement, led by Alpine County with support from AWG and funded through California's Integrated Regional Water Management program and Caltrans.

Alpine County, as the lead agency under CEQA, prepared an IS/MND for the 2015 Project in 2014<sup>1</sup>. The draft IS/MND was circulated to the public and to responsible public agencies for a review period of 30 days starting March 12, 2015, and ending April 10, 2015. The county approved the 2015 Project and subsequently filed the NOD for the project with the county clerk and State Clearinghouse pursuant to Section 15075 of the CEQA Guidelines (State Clearinghouse Number 2015032034) on June 29, 2015. See **Appendix A** for the IS/MND for the 2015 Project.

In 2021, MPUD approved an addendum to the 2015 IS/MND for the sewer improvement project. MPUD approved the 2021 addendum on March 11, 2021, and subsequently filed the NOD for the sewer improvement project with the county clerk and State Clearinghouse.

Alpine County is the landowner and permitting applicant for the Project, and AWG is the main Project proponent. MPUD is engaged as a key stakeholder, and MPUD's sewer improvement project is being jointly coordinated with this Project to ensure appropriate construction phasing. Caltrans is also engaged as a stakeholder because Caltrans is leading its own project involving replacement of the Markleeville Creek Bridge (Caltrans bridge replacement project) at the upstream end (south end) of the Project site. The Caltrans bridge replacement project is in active construction and anticipated to be completed before implementation of either the MPUD sewer improvement project or this restoration project. Construction of the restoration project is planned for the summer of 2024 or 2025. Caltrans is providing some funding for the restoration project because the restoration project is providing permit-specified mitigation requirements for the Caltrans bridge replacement project as outlined in a cooperative agreement between Caltrans and Alpine County.

### 3.2 Project Area History/Existing Conditions

The reach of Markleeville Creek targeted for restoration has been highly altered since the 1930s, when initial portions of rock floodwalls were constructed to isolate the former floodplain, the area was cleared and graded, and native soils were buried with fill to allow construction of the Forest Service Markleeville Guard Station. The placement of fill and the erection and extension of floodwalls over the decades

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The IS/MND is referenced as the 2015 IS/MND based on the date adopted as opposed to the date prepared. Similarly, the citation for the 2015 IS/MND uses the year of adoption, or "Alpine County 2015".

allowed the developed uses and prevented inundation during typical seasonal runoff or small floods. Despite these alterations, the site remains subject to significant and repeated flooding during major storm events and has been inundated multiple times, including at least five times from 1937 to 2005. Following a flood in 1997, additional rock gabion slope stabilization measures were completed along the west (left) bank of Markleeville Creek to protect the road, sewer force main, and Forest Service campground waterline. Refer to **Photo 1** for existing conditions along Markleeville Creek.

The restoration project has been identified as a priority floodplain restoration project for the Upper Carson River Watershed in at least three watershed-level planning and assessment documents—the *Upper Carson River Watershed Stream Corridor Condition Assessment* (MACTEC Engineering & Consulting and Swanson Hydrology & Geomorphology 2004), the *Carson River Watershed Adaptive Stewardship Plan* (Carson Water Subconservancy District 2007 and 2017 supplement), and the *Carson River Watershed Floodplain Management Plan* (Carson Water Subconservancy District 2008) and 2018 update (Michael Baker International 2018). The Project has been incorporated in the *Tahoe-Sierra Integrated Regional Water Management Plan* (IRWMP) and will meet a variety of the IRWMP's water quality, ecosystem restoration, and integrated water management objectives.



**Photo 1.** Existing conditions along Markleeville Creek with rock floodwall shown isolating the floodplain (October 13, 2023).

### 3.3 Project Goals and Objectives

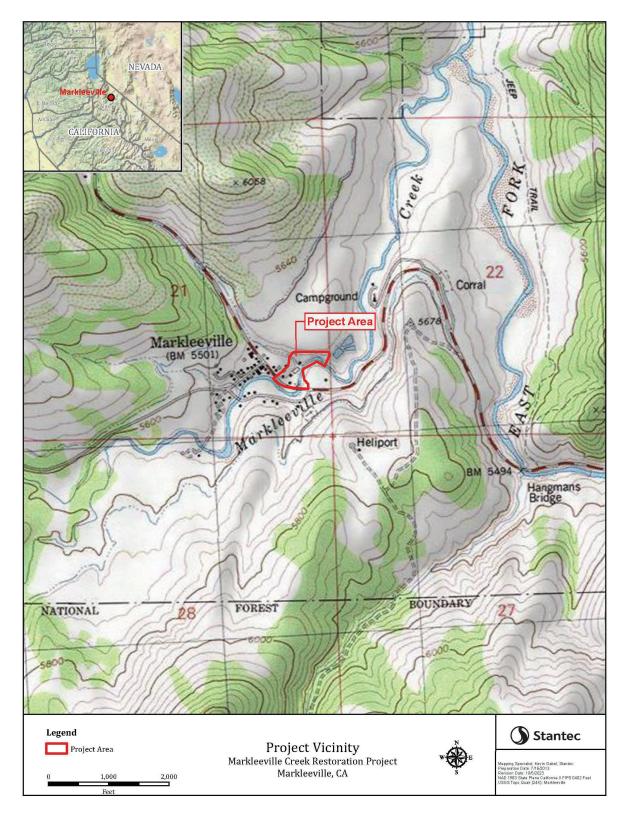
The Project has an ecosystem goal and a community benefit goal.

The Project's ecosystem goal is to restore the floodplain and streamside environment to more closely resemble its natural state by reconnecting the stream to its historical floodplain and improving geomorphic function. The objectives are as follows:

- Restore degraded wetlands to reestablish natural water filtering processes;
- Restore floodplain functions to reduce damaging effects of floods and to allow ecological benefits of overbanking;
- Enhance degraded streams to support healthy and viable native fish populations;
- Reduce nutrient and sediment loads to receiving waterbodies; and
- Restore and expand riparian vegetation and floodplain wetland biogeochemical cycling.

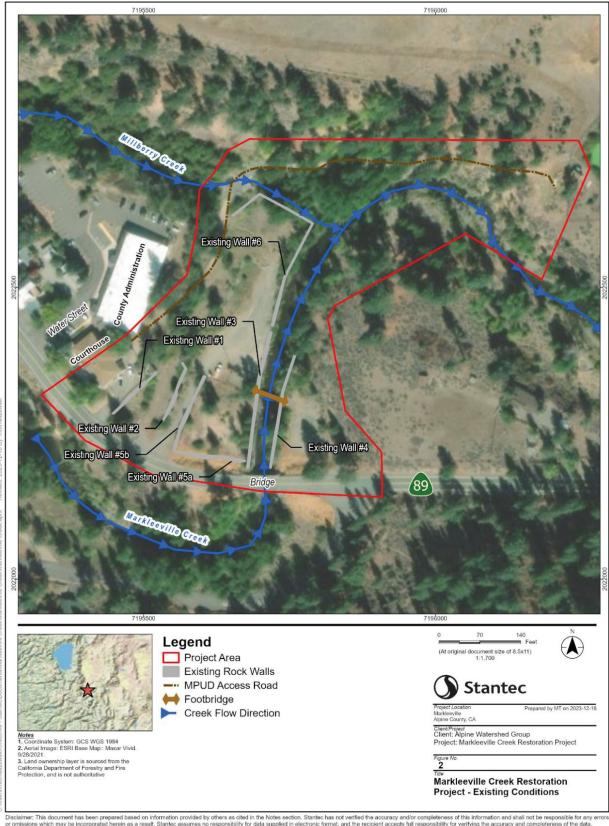
The Project's community benefit goal is to enhance recreational opportunities for both visitors and residents. The objectives are as follows:

- Provide formal public access for vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians, including Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)–compliant access to a scenic and recreational resource;
- Install initial recreation features including informal walking paths, benches, and picnic opportunities;
- Protect core areas of existing mature riparian vegetation to limit net adverse effects on site aesthetics;
- Salvage and save representative elements of the rock floodwalls for future reuse in decorative or interpretive features;
- Create continuing opportunities for community involvement with site adaptive management, monitoring, and environmental education and interpretation; and
- Facilitate future public recreation facilities and services. Future facilities may include a public restroom, interpretive trails and signage, constructed fishing access, or additional picnic areas.





Source: Alpine County 2015.



#### Figure 2 Project Site—Existing Conditions

# 4 Description of Project Modifications

The following section describes the key Project modifications since the 2015 Project was analyzed in the IS/MND and also presents the additional resource protection measures the county plans to implement as part of the current restoration project. The focus of the analysis in Section 5 is the incremental effects of these proposed modifications compared to the previously anticipated effects of the 2015 Project.

### 4.1 **Project Modifications**

The two most substantive changes to the Project since 2015 are (1) removal of the goals, objectives, and activities associated with the MPUD sewer improvement project and (2) the additional work associated with removing the remnant abutments of the old Markleeville Creek Bridge left in place by Caltrans during the 2023 Caltrans bridge replacement project. These two changes to the 2015 Project scope of work necessitated revision of the 2015 design plan set, during which time several other minor revisions were proposed, including:

- A revision to the alignment of the proposed ADA trail;
- Decreased construction activity along Millberry Creek in the area formerly associated with construction of a secondary channel;
- Additional feet of floodwall removal;
- Additional rock slope protection under the Markleeville Creek Bridge and along the existing road crossing of Millberry Creek;
- New grading specifications within the floodplain; and
- Removal of additional 11 trees (removal of the 7 identified in the 2015 Project plus 11 additional).

**Table 1** summarizes key features of the 2015 Project and identifies the proposed modifications to thesame features. The 2015 Project features are illustrated in **Figure 3** and the current proposed restorationproject features in **Figure 4**.

Project Feature	2015 Project	Restoration Project	Explanation
MPUD sewer improvements	X		As discussed above, the sewer improvement project has been split from the restoration project and is now its own autonomous project led by MPUD. In 2021, MPUD approved an addendum to the 2015 IS/MND for the sewer improvement project.
Removal of Bridge Abutments		X	Two bridge abutments below the bridge under Highway 89 were partially removed during the 2023 Caltrans bridge replacement project. The abutments could not be fully removed at that time due to structural concerns as they are connected to the existing floodwalls. With implementation of the current restoration project, the remnant bridge abutments will be removed and rock slope protection added under the bridge to stabilize the slope.

Table 1. Summary of 2015 Project Features and the Restoration Project Features
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Project Feature	2015 Project	Restoration Project	Explanation
ADA-Compliant Trail	X	X	Both projects include an ADA compliant trail. The alignment of the trail in the current restoration project is slightly north of the alignment proposed as part of the 2015 Project to ensure that the slope of the trail meets ADA requirements. The proposed terminus of the trail and the viewing platform location are unchanged.
Millberry Creek Low- flow Channel	X		The restoration project does not include construction of a new secondary channel downstream of the Millberry Creek bridge. The original purpose of the channel was to alleviate erosion problems at that location. However, after additional hydraulic analysis and field observation, the design team determined that the observed erosion is caused by flow overtopping the existing road crossing of the Millberry Creek culvert. To address this erosion issue, the current design includes the addition of rock slope protection at the existing bridge and culvert location.
Floodwall Removal	x	X	The 2015 Project proposed removal of existing floodwall on Markleeville Creek (160 linear feet on the east bank and 570 linear feet on west bank) and Millberry Creek (170 feet on the south bank). The current restoration project proposes the removal of approximately 40 additional linear feet along Markleeville Creek. This increase in floodwall removal is to support the replacement of the Markleville Creek Bridge at Highway 89 associated with the 2023 Caltrans bridge replacement project.
Isolated Floodplain Depressions	X		The 2015 Project specified the construction of isolated floodplain depressions to create diverse floodplain topography. The restoration project specifications address this objective with construction specifications that direct non-uniform grading of the existing floodplain elevations to retain and/or create undulation in floodplain topography. Therefore, development of isolated floodplain depressions is unnecessary.
Vegetation/Tree Removal	X	X	The 2015 Project identified the need for removal of 7 trees. The restoration project proposes removal of 18 trees. The removal of these additional trees is to accommodate design changes associated with the ADA trail and adjustments to the grading specifications adjacent to the floodplain.

### 4.2 **Resource Protection Measures**

All mitigation measures, construction best management practices, restoration and revegetation measures, and resource protection measures identified in the 2015 IS/MND remain applicable to the Project. In addition, Alpine County is in the process of preparing permit applications, including but not limited to those required under the Clean Water Act (i.e., US Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 and California State Water Resources Control Board Section 401) and California Department of Fish and Wildlife Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement, and will adhere to all the conditions and requirements of those permits. The County has committed to the following additional Project-specific resource protection measures since the development of the 2015 IS/MND:

#### **Biological Resource Protection Measures**

#### Migratory Bird Protections

- Schedule project activities (e.g., tree removal, other vegetation removal, ground disturbance, staging) during the nonbreeding season (September 1-January 31), to the greatest extent practicable.
- A pre-construction nesting bird survey will be conducted by a qualified biologist within 14-days of project implementation within the disturbance footprint and appropriate buffer during nesting bird season (February 1 through August 31).
- If an active nest is identified either during the pre-construction survey or during project
  implementation, impacts to active nests will be avoided by the establishment and maintenance of
  buffers around the nests. The appropriate size and shape of the buffers will be determined by a
  qualified biologist in consultation with the CDFW, and may vary depending on the nest location, nest
  stage, and construction activity. No project activity will occur within the buffer area until the biologist
  confirms that the nest is no longer active. Monitoring will be conducted by a qualified biologist to
  confirm that the project activities are not resulting in detectable adverse effects to an active nest(s).

#### Fish Rescue and Relocation Plan

• A fish rescue and relocation plan will be developed and submitted to USFWS and CDFW for review and approval at least 30-days prior to project implementation. The plan will describe fish rescue and relocation procedures that will be coordinated with dewatering efforts, including but not limited to methodology for electrofishing, fish handling, and release.

#### Entrapment Avoidance

Trenches and holes not filled by end of workday must be completely and securely covered. Prior to the start of work the next days, crew will check the workspace for trapped wildlife or bird nests. If wildlife is trapped or nests observed, the Contractor will contact Alpine County to determine appropriate next steps.

#### **Construction Best Management Practices to Protect Water Quality**

#### Best Management Practices, Permits, and Post-Construction

- Construction BMPs will be implemented during project implementation, including but not limited to: good housekeeping, site access and track out, erosion and sediment controls, laydown and storage areas, materials and waste management. BMPs will be inspected and maintained for the duration of the project. Post construction, site restoration measures will be implemented to minimize soil erosion.
- Erosion and storm water pollution control measures will be consistent with NPDES General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities requirements and will be included in a site specific SWPPP.
- Storage of hazardous materials (including fuels) and servicing and refueling of equipment will be conducted at pre-designated locations away from waterbodies and wetlands. Absorbent spill clean-up

materials and spill kits will be available on-site to be used in the case of an emergency to absorb spills.

#### Storm Events

Work will be avoided prior to and during rain events; exposed areas will be stabilized and protected with BMPs at least two hours prior to an anticipate rain event.

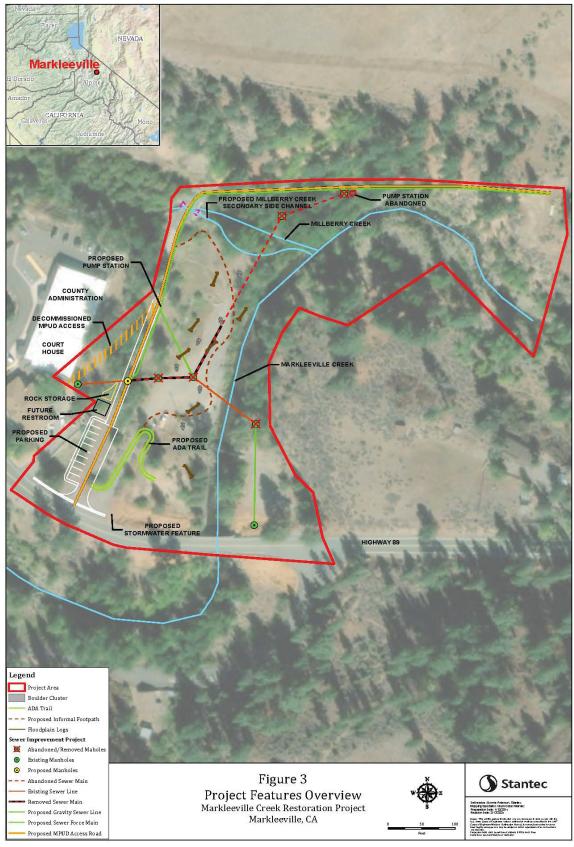


Figure 3 2015 Project Features (Source: Alpine County 2015)

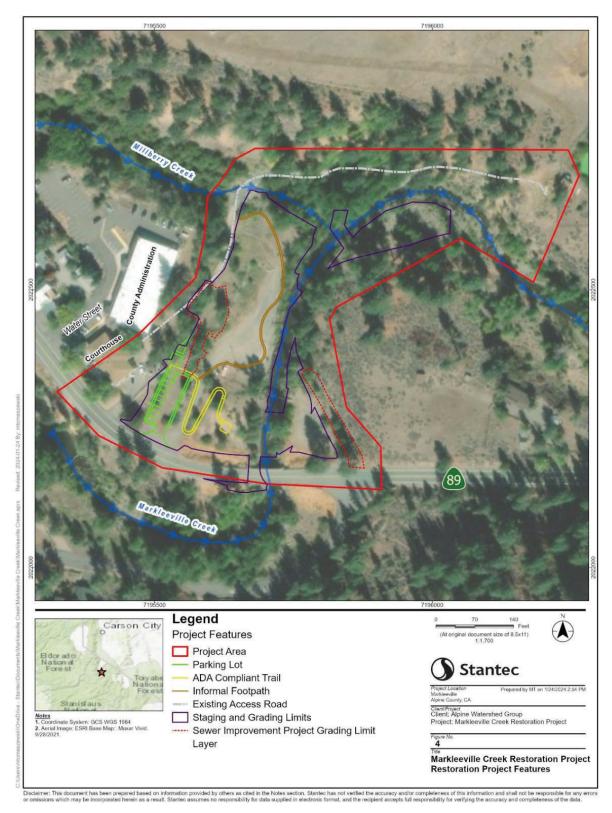


Figure 4 Restoration Project Features

# 5 Analysis of Project Modification

The IS/MND for the 2015 Project evaluated the range of environmental topics listed in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines. For each of those resource areas the impact determination was identified as not significant or less-than-significant with two exceptions: biological resources and cultural resources. For those two resource areas mitigation was identified to reduce potentially significant impacts to a less than significant impact. These mitigation measures remain applicable to this Project along with all construction methods, restoration, and revegetation measures included in the original IS/MND, plus the resource protection measures identified in Section 4.2 of this document.

Consistent with CEQA guidelines, the project modifications described in Section 4.0 were considered with respect to the following two major criteria:

- Whether the changes or additions result in any new significant impacts or substantially increase the severity of previously identified significant impacts, and
- Whether substantial changes have occurred with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken, such as a substantial change in the affected environment.

The following subsections synthesize the results of this evaluation.

#### 5.1 Potential Impact Modifications Resulting from Project Changes or Additions

The reduction in the overall scope of the Project would not result in any new significant impacts or substantially increase the severity of previously identified significant impacts. Removal of all activities associated with the MPUD sewer improvement project and decreased construction activity along Millberry Creek eliminates any nominal impacts associated with both of those activities. All other modifications are all within the same Project footprint analyzed in the IS/MND and are consistent with achievement of the goals and objectives of the 2015 Project. Except for the removal of the remnant abutments of the old Markleeville Creek Bridge, the modifications represent only minor variations in the overall Project design; none require new ground disturbance, new in-water work, or affect any cultural or historic resources not previously analyzed. Specifically, the following modifications to the Project design are within the originally analyzed Project scope of work and would not result in any new significant impacts or substantially increase the severity of previously identified impacts:

- Revision to the alignment of the proposed ADA trail;
- 40 additional feet of floodwall removal along Markleeville Creek;
- Additional rock slope protection/stabilization under the Markleeville Creek Bridge and along the existing road crossing of Millberry Creek;
- Variation in the grading specifications within the floodplain; and
- Increase in the total number of trees identified for removal.

The only Project modification outside the previously analyzed scope of work is the removal of the remnant abutments of the old Markleeville Creek Bridge left in place by Caltrans during the 2023 Caltrans bridge replacement project. While the construction activity associated with the removal of the abutments is consistent with the generally types of construction activity analyzed in the original IS/MND, the cultural significance of the abutments was not analyzed in that document.

#### **Cultural Resources**

The following discussion evaluates the potential for impacts to cultural resources associated with removal of the abutments.

The bridge abutment area was evaluated as part of the Caltrans bridge replacement IS/MND, adopted on January 17, 2019. The bridge abutment area was further reevaluated via a CEQA addendum for that same bridge replacement project dated March 5, 2020. Neither the final IS/MND or CEQA addendum for the Caltrans bridge replacement project identified the bridge abutments as potentially eligible or eligible cultural resources. Therefore, removal of the remnant bridge abutments would have no impact to any cultural resources.

#### Summary

None of the Project modifications generate short term or long term new significant impacts or substantially increase the severity of previously identified significant impacts. Most of the modifications fall within the scope of the project analyzed in the 2015 Project IS/MND, and the removal of the bridge abutments (which falls outside the scope of the original analysis), would not generate any new impacts. Therefore, the findings from the 2015 Project IS/MND as pertaining to all resource topics in the Appendix G CEQA checklist remain unchanged.

### 5.2 Changes to the Affected Environment

The environment of the Project site remains relatively unchanged from the site as analyzed in the 2015 IS/MND. No new construction or other ground disturbance has occurred within or adjacent to the Project site with the exception of the Caltrans bridge replacement project. In addition, there have been no substantive changes to the topography, geography, hydrology, vegetative communities, riparian, or wetland resources within the Project site and adjacent area. The 2021 Tamarack Fire burned within Alpine County and within proximity to the Project site but did not burn within the Project site itself.

To determine whether any biological aspects of the Project site (including the presence of any special status species) have changed since 2015, Stantec (under contract with AWG) completed a desktop biological resource evaluation as well as a reconnaissance field survey of the Project site in August of 2023. The Biological Resources Addendum (Biological Addendum) documenting the methodology and results of the evaluation and survey is included as Appendix B. A synthesis of the results is provided as follows.

#### **Biological Affected Environment**

The environmental conditions and vegetation communities documented and mapped for as part of the environmental analysis for the 2015 Project were observed to be in similar condition and extent during the 2023 field survey. No special-status wildlife species were observed during the field survey in 2023 or identified by biological resource review conducted as part of the 2015 Project. Seven special status species were identified in the 2015 Project IS/MND as having the potential to occur in the Project vicinity but only one of these, the mountain sucker (a fish), was identified as having the potential to occur within the Project site. Six special status species were identified in the Project vicinity. Of these, four were identified as potentially occurring within the Project site (may occur): Lahontan cutthroat trout, Sierra Nevada mountain beaver, Sierra Nevada snowshoe hare, and western white-tailed jackrabbit; and two identified as occurring within the Project site: mountain whitefish.

The 2015 Project IS/MND included several biological mitigation measures intended to reduce any potential impacts to special status terrestrial and aquatic and wildlife species associated with Project construction to a less than significant level. These measures included pre-construction plant, wildlife, and amphibian surveys. As noted in the introduction to this analysis, these mitigation measures remain applicable to this Project along with all construction methods, restoration, and revegetation measures included in the original IS/MND, plus the additional resource protection measures identified in Section 4.2

of this document such as a preparing a fish rescue and relocation plan and measures to protect migratory birds. With implementation of these measures, no new significant impacts are anticipated to any species, or to any biological resources; nor is the Project expected to increase the severity of any previously identified potentially significant impacts to any biological resources. Overall, there have been no changes to the existing environment, including as pertaining to special-status species that constitute a substantial change. Therefore, the findings from the 2015 Project IS/MND as pertaining to all resource topics in the Appendix G CEQA checklist remain unchanged.

### Summary

There have been no changes to the affected environment, including as pertaining to the presence of special-status species, that constitute a substantial change to the circumstances where the Project will be undertaken. Therefore, the findings from the 2015 Project IS/MND as pertaining to all resource topics in the Appendix G CEQA checklist remain unchanged.

### 5.3 Impact Findings

In summary, with implementation of the applicable mitigation measures, construction methods, restoration and revegetation measures, and resource protection measures included in the 2015 Project, as well as the additional resource protection measures Alpine County has since committed to, the proposed Project modifications described in Section 4.0 of this addendum would have no new significant impacts and would not create a substantial increase in the severity of the prior-disclosed impacts with respect to any of the environmental resource areas evaluated. Further there has not been any substantial changes with respect to the circumstances under which the Project is undertaken that would constitute a change to any resource finding in the 2015 Project IS/MND.

# 6 Conclusion

As indicated by the analysis in Section 5 above, the environmental analysis and impacts identified in the 2015 Project remain substantially unchanged by the proposed Project modifications. This addendum, therefore, supports the finding that none of the conditions described in CEQA Guidelines §15162 calling for preparation of a subsequent negative declaration have occurred. The revised Project does not raise any new issues and does not exceed the level of impacts identified in the previously adopted MND. As such, this addendum is the appropriate CEQA document for consideration. The revised Project will not result in any new or significant impacts to the environment.

# 7 References

- Alpine County. 2015. Markleeville Creek Floodplain Restoration Project, Alpine County, CA. Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration Volume I and Volume 2.
- Carson Water Subconservancy District. 2007. Carson River Watershed Adaptive Stewardship Plan. Available at: <u>Carson River Watershed Adaptive Stewardship Plan – Carson Water</u> <u>Subconservancy District (cwsd.org)</u>.
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- MACTEC Engineering & Consulting and Swanson Hydrology & Geomorphology. 2004. *Upper Carson River Watershed Stream Corridor Condition Assessment*. Prepared for Alpine Watershed Group and the Sierra Nevada Alliance. Available at: <u>upper carson covertoc 1004.pdf (nv.gov)</u>.
- Michael Baker International. Carson River Watershed Floodplain Management Plan 2018. Prepared for Carson Water Subconservancy District, Alpine County (California), Carson City, Churchill County, Douglas County, Lyon County, and Storey County (Nevada). Available at: <u>2018-10-18-RFMP-Bd-Approved-Final.pdf (cwsd.org)</u>.

# Appendix A

2015 IS/MND Volume I and II

Please see County Community Development Website/Planning/Current Projects

Link:

https://www.alpinecountyca.gov/620/Markleeville-Creek-Floodplain-Restoratio